

24 December 2016



**The President and Board of Directors of the UK Chapter extend their Season's Greetings to our members and their families and wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2017.**

**Review** 2016 has been another excellent year for the UK Chapter. We were recognized again as the AOC Chapter of the Year, making it an unprecedented 5-in-a-row. Success as a Chapter depends on an energetic Board and on members who support the Chapter. So thanks are due to the hard working Board and to all the enthusiastic members who provide support. This year we have also seen an increase in membership to nearly 500 which bodes well for the future – please help encourage more members whenever you can. And I personally ask you to become more involved with the Chapter, do what you can to spread the word about EW and related operations and capability, and specifically to encourage new members, specially focusing on the young.

2016 has also seen a series of awards to individuals and units and several outstanding visits, all of which have been reported in these Newsletters over the past year. We intend to do even more in 2017 – and given your support, we will.

**Christmas Dinner 2016** On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December members met at the RAF Club for our Annual Christmas Dinner and Awards ceremony. We had a great time – thanks to Phil Davies for organising it, “Padre” Chris Howe for grace and several great “dits”, and to Kathy Hastings for once again providing the traditional party fireworks.



International Region 1 Director Dr Sue Robertson presents the AOC's highest award for technology, the Joseph W. Kearney Pioneer Award, to Dr Jim Wickes. The following is an extract of the dedication read out at the 53<sup>rd</sup> AOC International Symposium Formal Dinner. *Dr Wickes joined the MoD as a research scientist in 1972. Throughout his career, he has worked in EW to enhance the survivability of platforms and systems across all operational environments. The Joseph W. Kearney Pioneer Award recognizes an individual's notable pioneering activities in and long service to the discipline of electronic warfare. The UK Chief Scientific Advisor has formally commended Jim for his work and he has received many accolades throughout his career from the highest level in the UK, from the US and 5-Eyes community and from NATO, for his pioneering work and leadership in EW. Tireless in promoting EW and protecting platforms, Jim Wickes' enthusiasm continues unabated with numerous cooperative initiatives and innovative solutions continuing to this day, along with close links to the US Army and USAF.*



Phil Davies (Lifetime Service Award) and Julian Grenfell (Distinguished Service Award) were presented with Commendations and Awards at the Dinner.





2016 Christmas Dinner attendees included survivors of the **charity “Movember” challenge moustache growing effort** – these particular gentlemen include Darin Nielsen who is the AOC Pacific Director (third from left), who also received a UK Chapter plaque. They arrived at the Dinner fresh from a NATO AG III SG2 air platform protection meeting in Switzerland (don't ask, I know Switzerland is not a NATO member, but the more the merrier when it comes to air platform protection.) P.S. – not all the facial hair is real and some didn't last until the end of the evening 😊

**The 2017 Christmas Dinner will take place in the RAF Club on 8 December 2017** – mark it in your diaries now come and join us – a great excuse for all our members to enjoy a winter weekend in London, an outstanding experience.

**In Memoria** One of our long-standing members, Graham Turfrey passed away just before Christmas after a long and brave battle against illness. Graham was a renowned and influential EW Instructor from the 1970s who continued to work training UK and the UK's global allies in practical EW until late in 2015. He will be much missed. Board member Phil Davies, and the last ever Vulcan AEO, said *“I first meet Graham in 1977 when I joined the V Force almost 40 years ago! A good friend and excellent EW Instructor.”* UK Chapter VP Chris Howe MBE will represent the Chapter at Graham's funeral and is the point of contact for members who might wish to celebrate Graham's life. Chris's email address is [cahowe500@gmail.com](mailto:cahowe500@gmail.com). Please feel free to disseminate this information and Chris's email address to anybody who might have known Graham.

**Finally** That's all folks - time to raise the drawbridge at Clifford Towers for another year! I wish you all an excellent Christmas and New Year. I've listed a few dates below, where you might consider joining us in 2017. Please think about joining in more in 2017. Remember, the UK Chapter is all about you, so please stay engaged and let the Board know what you want. Perhaps nominate someone for an AOC award. Feedback is always welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Clifford'.

John Clifford OBE  
UK Chapter President

## **SOME DATES FOR YOUR 2017 DIARY**

**AOC EW Singapore 2017** – Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, 17-18 January 2017  
<http://www.ewsingapore.com/>

**UK CHAPTER AGM** – Millennium Suite, RAF Club, 18:00 Thursday 16 March 2017

**AOC EW Europe 2017 – London**, 6-8 June 2017, Olympia Conference Centre  
<https://www.eweuropa.com/>

**Visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn**, Eastern Kings Fort, Plymouth Date TBD 2017

**Visit to 11 EOD Regiment**, RAF Northolt, Date TBD 2017

**More to follow!**

**Check out our website at [www.ukaoc.org](http://www.ukaoc.org)**

You can also check out **career opportunities** there too, by clicking on the Home Page button.

If your Company would like to advertise job vacancies, avoid agency fees and contact real experts quickly please contact Chris Howe ([cahowe500@gmail.com](mailto:cahowe500@gmail.com))